Central Assistance to KBK districts of Orissa

1089. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Central assistance sought by Government of Orissa to bear the cost of drought relief in that State particularly KBK (undivided Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi) districts and the amount sanctioned therefor;

(b) the reasons for the failure of ADAPT scheme which was introduced earlier in these KBK districts;

(c) the measures proposed to be adopted to rescue the people of KBK districts from the clutches of drought; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Rs. 36.76 crores was released to Government of Orissa as the Central share of Calamity Relief Fund During 1996-97. The State Government had submitted a memorandum seeking assistance of Rs. 570.70 crores from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) for relief measures in the drought affected areas including the KBK districts. After considering the report of a Central team which visited the affected areas, the National Calamity Relief Committee decided to release Rs. SO.00 crores from the NFCR as additional assistance for drought relief measures. After the Prime Minister's visit to the affect areas an additional amount of Rs. 4.00 crores was also released from the NFCR for nutrition programmes in the affected areas.

(b) The ADAPT was formulated and implemented from August, 1988 in 15 blocks of Kalahandi and Koraput districts for ensuring employment round the year to the rural poor, and for increasing the agricultural production. The Programme was discontinued after December, 1989.

(c) and (d) A Long Term Action Plan (LTAP) has been launched from August, 1995 in the KBK districts for implementation over a period of 7 years from 1995-96 to 2001-2002 with an outlay of Rs. 4557.03 crores. The LTAP has been launched with the twin objectives of drought and distress proofing and development saturation.

Relief to the Victims of Kalimpong Land Slides

1090. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any formal request from Government of West Bengal had been received by Central Government for financial assistance to give adequate relief to the victims of Kalimpong land slides of 1996; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Centra] Government in this respect and details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India had released Rs. 38.49 crores to the Government of West Bengal as the Central share of the State Calamity Relief Fund During 1996-97. After considering the report of a Central team which visited the affected areas the National Calamity Relief Committee decided that the State Government had adequate resources in the State Calamity Relief Fund to tide over the situation. No additional assistance was therefore provided.

BGH Injection

1091. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Press report appearing in the daily "Tribune" dated the 29th May, 1997 under the caption "Hormone to increase milk yield cleared";